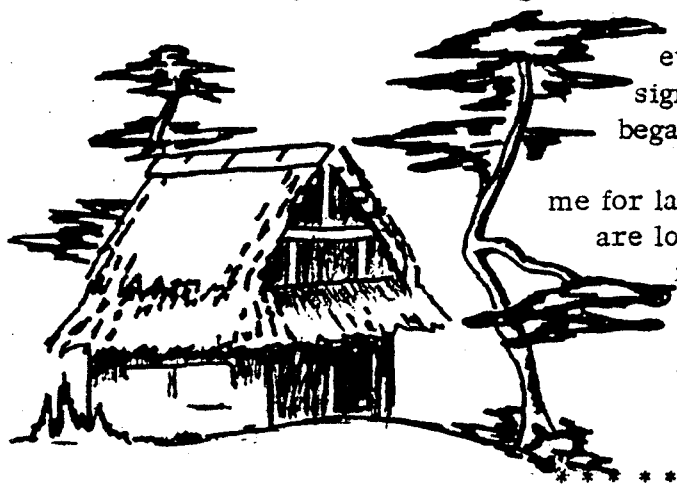


COMPREHENSION CHALLENGES

The trip had been fun up to now. We had left Naha, the capital, early that morning to visit the northern part of Okinawa. We had watched farmers harvesting, thrashing, and winnowing rice with simple implements. From the Shinto shrine we could see over the small hills to the East China Sea.

Our excitement over exploring a far-away island had turned to concern. We were lost. How were we going to find our way back to Naha? Since neither of us spoke the language, we decided to make our way to the nearest house for help. Maybe we could explain our problem with sign language. We soon came to a house and found a very old man sitting in the nearby shade. He seemed surprised to see two foreigners walking down the dirt path towards him. He looked even more surprised when we started making strange signs with our hands as we said "Lost, Naha." He began to laugh heartily.

Finally he said in beautiful English, "Excuse me for laughing, but you do look quite silly. I take it that you are lost and want to get back to Naha." He gave us the instructions we needed. But where had he learned to speak such beautiful English?



- *****
- This story is about:
 - East China Sea
 - Naha
 - being lost
 - Shinto shrine
 - What did the two men think would be their greatest problem?
 - asking for directions
 - getting supplies
 - finding shade
 - dusty shoes
 - They tried to communicate by:
 - making faces
 - sign language
 - drawing in the dust
 - pointing
 - The old man responded to them in:
 - his native tongue
 - Chinese
 - a Chinese dialect
 - English
 - Put into the order in which they happened:
 - laughing at sign language
 - visiting a Shinto shrine
 - watching harvesting of rice
 - getting lost
 - Implements in this story are:
 - harvesters
 - animals
 - farm tools
 - knives
 - Which word best describes the reaction of the old man to the sign language?
 - sour
 - amused
 - absorbed
 - confused
 - How do you think the two foreigners felt when they discovered that the old man could speak their language?
 - foolish but relieved
 - angry but relieved
 - happy but concerned
 - sad but excited